

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Higgins, please, followed by Senator Morehead.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Landis, I appreciate your remarks that gambling is not good for people, booze is not good for people, therefore, we should tax it. Recent history, Senator Landis, has shown us that sex isn't always good for people either. Maybe we ought to tax that. I mean, if we're going to put taxes on what Senator Landis thinks is not good...so, you know, so much for booze isn't good for you. I don't know if I've ever seen Landis refuse a drink but then again, maybe he doesn't. I agree people don't play the pickles necessarily for charity, but they sure as heck don't play the horses for charity either. They play it because they are hoping maybe their dream will come true, and while the state is taking all their money to support one form of gambling, maybe they will make a little bit of money. But the whole point of this is those who you set out to help are the ones you are punishing. Who's paying the tax to the state? The Little Leagues, the same ones I've been telling you all afternoon, and you go back to your districts and you're going to campaign and say, I didn't vote to raise taxes, except on the charitable organizations. The nonprofits will give up more of their profit to the state. And as far as what we gave away last year in millions, this Senator didn't vote for any of that. In fact, as I remember there were only 11 of us that did not vote for it, and this Senator didn't vote to take more from the middle income and the lower income. And I don't even have to run again for reelection, but I feel sorry for those of you that do if the voters take the time to find out whether or not you are going to do like our illustrious revenue neutral Governor who says, I will not raise taxes. If you said that four years ago, or two years ago, you are voting right now, you've already voted for a 16 percent, that is a tax increase. At least you can redeem yourself by saying, well, I thought it over and I decided I didn't want to take that much from the churches, I didn't want to take that much from those people that do raise money for charitable institutions. And if they didn't, if they didn't, we would have a lot more expense in caring for the poor. The Salvation Army, the St. Vincent De Paul Society, the various homes for the homeless that we have, if we didn't have them, what would the state do? Let them go hungry? Let them go homeless? Somebody comes up with an idea that says, hey, this is not mandatory that you buy a pickle ticket. Nobody ever got